

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 NEA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON MOSLEM VOTE IN THRACE

1. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF NOVEMBER 21 CARRIES FRONTPAGE
LEAD EDITORIAL BY CHIEF ED KYROU CHARGING THAT MOSLEM VOTE
IN THRACE DURING NOVEMBER 17 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WAS
ORCHESTRATED BY TURKISH CONGEN IN KOMOTINI IN ORDER TO
REDUCE KARAMANLIS STRENGTH IN AREA. AS EVIDENCE, KYROU
CITES HIGH VOTES FOR CENTER UNION (CU) AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENT (EDE) MOSLEM CANDIDATES IN RHODOPI AND XANTHI NOMI
COMPARED WITH POOR SHOWINGS BY MOSLEM CANDIDATES OF NEW
DEMOCRACY (ND). KYROU FURTHER CLAIMS THAT VOTES FOR LATTER
CANDIDATES WERE PRIMARILY NOT FROM "TURKISH" MOSLEMS BUT FROM
POMACK VOTERS. HE CONCLUDES THAT TURKISH CONGEN ACTIVELY
URGED AREA MOSLEMS TO SUPPORT CU AND EDE CANDIDATES IN ORDER
TO PREVENT ND FROM "GATHERING LARGE MAJORITY AND FORMING
STRONG GOVERNMENT UNDER KARAMANLIS".

2. COMMENT: OF TEN MOSLEM CANDIDATES FROM ALL PARTIES,
ONLY HAFUZ GALIB SEBAHEDIN HADJI ALI AND YASSAR MEHMET
OGLU OF CU WERE ELECTED IN RHODOPI WITH 11,218 AND 5,321

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VOTES RESPECTIVELY. (ONE MOSLEM ND CANDIDATE FROM XANTHI

IS STILL CONTESTING A SEAT IN THE THIRD DISTRIBUTION,
BUT IS NOT EXPECTED TO WIN.) OF OTHER MOSLEM CANDIDATES,
MUZAFER SALI OGLOU OF EDE RECEIVED HIGHEST VOTES OF 6,059
IN XANTHI BUT WAS NOT ELECTED. BY CONTRAST, ND CANDIDATES
OSMAN OUSTENER IN RHODOPI AND GELUL ZEIBEK HUSSEIN IN XANTHI
RECEIVED ONLY 3,802 AND 5,935, RESPECTIVELY.
BRENNAN

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